

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference AKT2253P1	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/US 98/ 21386	International filing date (day/month/year) 08/10/1998	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 08/10/1997
Applicant APPLIED MATERIALS, INC.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (see Box I).
2. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (see Box II).
3. ☐ The international application contains disclosure of a **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing** and the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing
 - ☐ filed with the international application.
 - ☐ furnished by the applicant separately from the international application.
 - ☐ but not accompanied by a statement to the effect that it did not include matter going beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ Transcribed by this Authority
4. With regard to the title,
 - ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant
 - ☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:
5. With regard to the abstract,
 - ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant
 - ☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this International Search Report, submit comments to this Authority.
6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is:

Figure No. 2

 - ☐ as suggested by the applicant. ☐ None of the figures.
 - ☒ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.
 - ☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 98/21386

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 6 H01L21/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 H01L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 536 128 A (SHIMOYASHIRO ET AL.) 16 July 1996 see abstract; figures 1-4, 42, 52-55 see column 8, line 15 - column 9, line 44 see column 20, line 1-5 see column 30, line 62 - column 32, line 16	1, 2, 7, 8, 12, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29, 33, 34
Y		38, 43, 44
A		3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 13, 16, 18, 19, 30-32, 35, 36, 39, 40, 42, 45, 46
	-/--	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

12 February 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report

23/02/1999

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 98/21386

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>--- EP 0 756 316 A (HITACHI, LTD.) 29 January 1997</p> <p>see abstract; figures 3,5,6 see column 8, line 42 - column 10, line 19</p>	<p>1-3,5-9, 11,13, 15,22, 28-34, 40,46</p>
Y A		<p>38 16,18, 19, 35-37, 39,42-45</p>
X	<p>--- EP 0 359 525 A (FUJITSU LIMITED) 21 March 1990</p> <p>see abstract; figures 2,3,7A,10</p>	<p>1,2,8, 15,28, 29,34,42</p>
A		<p>3,4,9, 11,12, 18,19, 30,31, 33,36, 38,40, 43-46</p>
Y	<p>--- US 3 976 330 A (BABINSKI ET AL.) 24 August 1976 see column 3, line 64-68; figure 1</p>	<p>43</p>
A		<p>1,15,28, 38,40, 42,44-46</p>
Y	<p>--- EP 0 684 630 A (APPLIED MATERIALS, INC.) 29 November 1995 see abstract; figure 1 see column 5, line 16-24</p>	<p>44</p>
A	<p>--- EP 0 608 633 A (APPLIED MATERIALS INC.) 3 August 1994 see page 7, line 39 -----</p>	<p>44</p>

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 98/21386

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